

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 5-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 14, 15 and 17 are amended for clarity, and new claim 24 is added. Claims of the present application may relate to embodiments broader than the specific examples described in the specification.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 4-11 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully notes that claim 4 has been canceled and similar subject matter has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 contains the subject matter that the Office Action indicates is allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,175,192 to Moon. The rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

During a July 10 telephone conference with Examiner Minh D.A, applicants confirmed that the rejection is based on the Moon reference but the text of the Office Action is accidentally based on the previously-applied U.S. Publication 2003/0193450 (i.e., the Lee publication) and not based on the applied Moon patent.

Independent claim 1 recites a first path for charging an inductor using energy from a source capacitor, and a second path, being separated from the source capacitor, for supplying energy of the inductor to the plasma display panel. Independent claim 1 also recites that the first path includes a first switching device connected between a second terminal of the source capacitor connected to a ground voltage source and a first terminal of the inductor, and a second

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switching device connected between a second terminal of the inductor and the ground voltage source. Independent claim 1 also recites the first and second switching devices keep a turned-on state during a period when energy from the source capacitor is charged in the inductor through the first path, and shut off the first path in a state in which energy has been charged in the inductor to thereby derive an inverse voltage into the inductor.

Moon does not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 1. That is, Moon does not teach or suggest the claimed first path and second path where the second path is separated from the source capacitor, for supplying energy of the inductor to the plasma display panel. Furthermore, Moon does not teach or suggest that the first and second switching devices keep a turned-on state during a period when energy from the source capacitor is charged in the inductor through the first path, and shut off the first path in a state in which energy has been charged in the inductor to thereby derive an inverse voltage into the inductor.

Moon describes that electric charge in a capacitor Cex1 is charged via first and second switches S1 and S2 to an inductor L1. See, for example, FIG. 3; col. 4, lines 46-48; and col. 4, lines 58-60. Moon also describes that an electric charge charged in the inductor L1 may be applied to a panel capacitor Cp. See, for example, col. 5, lines 60-63; and col. 6, lines 5-8. However, these cited sections clearly do not suggest that the first and second switching devices shut off a first path in a state in which energy has been charged in the inductor to thereby derive an inverse voltage into the inductor. Moon does not describe that first and second switches S1

and S2 shut off a path in a state in which energy has been charged in the inductor L1 to thereby derive an inverse voltage into the inductor L1.

For example, Moon's FIG. 6 shows one embodiment in which the switch S1 is maintained ON in time periods T1-T4. This time period corresponds to the time period T2 when energy charged in the first inductor L1 is applied to the first capacitor C2 and the time period T4 when the electric charge charged in the first capacitor L1 charges the panel capacitor Cp to a sustain voltage. See col. 5, line 55-col. 6, line 15. It is respectfully submitted that the other sections of Moon do not teach or suggest the claimed features relating to the first and second switching devices to shut off the first path in a state in which energy has been charged in the inductor to thereby derive an inverse voltage into the inductor, as recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 12 recites applying energy of the inductor to the panel using a second path that is separated from the source capacitor by disabling the first switch coupled between the source capacitor and the inductor and by disabling the second switch coupled between the inductor and the prescribed potential. For at least similar reasons as set forth above, Moon does not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 12. Thus, independent claim 12 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 16 recites during a second prescribed period of time, the first and second switching circuits allow transfer of energy stored in the inductor to the first node through a second electrically conductive path which excludes the capacitor. For at least similar reasons as

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set forth above, Moon does not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 16.

Thus, independent claim 16 defines patentable subject matter.

For at least the reasons set forth above, each of independent claims 1, 12 and 16 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references. For example, the Office Action states that dependent claims 4-11 contain allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2 and 5-24 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

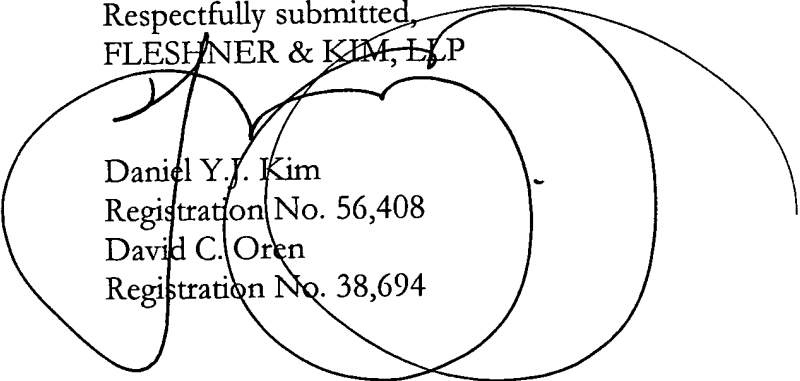
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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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